

Governor William H. Ross House
State Route 543
Seaford Vicinity
Sussex County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-196

HABS
DEL,
3-SEFO.V,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDED
FEB 1966

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE Delaware	COUNTY Sussex	TOWN OR VICINITY Seaford Vicinity
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Governor William H. Ross House		HABS NO. DE-196
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) East of State Route 543, north of Seaford		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1859	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This fine Italianate villa was built for Gov. William H. Ross when he left office. During his administration, Gov. Ross encouraged legislation to establish the Delaware Railroad, from which, as a Sussex peach grower, he profited.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Italianate		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick bearing walls; wood frame wing on rear		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) plan, two stories, three-story square tower		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Round-arched windows with hoodmolds, gable roof with bracketed eaves; square tower with scroll modillioned cornice; round-arched loggia at first level on front		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES A contemporary print in the Maass book shows house with balconies and canopies that do not appear on the house at present.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register Nomination, listed 1977. John Maass, <u>The Gingerbread Age</u> (NY: Bramhall House, 1957), p. 98. Calvert Vaux, <u>Villas and Cottages</u> (NY: Dover, 1970), p. 232.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Alison K. Hoagland, Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE January 1983

ADDENDUM TO
GOVERNOR WILLIAM H. ROSS HOUSE
State Route 543
Seaford Vicinity
Sussex County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-196

HABS
DEL,
3-SEFO.V,
2-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013